

## *Week 2*

### Identité et échanges

#### 1. How has immigration shaped the USA?

##### Document A

##### **Historical and Geographic Content "Gold Rush of 1849"**

Gold Rush of 1849 was the massive movement of people to California following the discovery of gold there in 1848. In January 1848 James W. Marshall, a carpenter building a sawmill in partnership with John A. Sutter in California's Sacramento Valley, discovered gold. Sutter made his workers promise to keep the discovery a secret. However, the news leaked out. Within a few months, a shrewd merchant, hoping to increase his business, set off the gold rush in earnest. Samuel Brannan, one of the early Mormon settlers in San Francisco, owned a store near Sutter's fort. In early May, he returned to San Francisco from a visit to the diggings and spread the word of gold. Within a few days, boats filled with townspeople were heading up the Sacramento River to look for gold. Brannan, of course, had stocked his store with mining supplies and was doing a thriving business. San Francisco soon was a ghost town, as almost everyone was off to the gold sites.

During the summer of 1848, the news spread up and down the West Coast, across the border to Mexico, and even to the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii). Word also reached the Mississippi Valley and the Eastern states. Newspapers were filled with the accounts of men who claimed to have become rich overnight by picking gold out of California's wondrous earth. Then, in a message to the Congress of the United States in December, President James K. Polk confirmed the presence of gold in California. That winter, people from all walks of life set out for California. Many pawned their possessions to get there.

The gold seekers, also known as Forty-Niners or Argonauts, joined the rush from as far off as Europe and Australia. Many Chinese also flocked to San Francisco to join in the gold rush. There were three routes to the goldfields. A Forty-Niner could go by boat to Panama, cross to the city of Panama, and then catch a boat to San Francisco. An alternative was to make the longer sea voyage around Cape Horn, the southernmost point of South America. The demand for passage was so great that old and undersized ships were pressed into service. A number of them sank in the

treacherous waters off Cape Horn. The cheapest route was using the various overland trails to California. By far the greatest number of Forty-Niners walked or rode across the American continent. Some used the Oregon and Mormon trails over the Great Plains. Others took the Santa Fe, Sonora, and other southern trails. The spring rains made some of the trails almost impassable. The rains were followed by an epidemic of cholera, which killed thousands of the travelers.

Nevertheless, by 1852 more than 200,000 gold seekers had managed to reach California. In the earliest days of the rush, claims yielding as much as \$300 to \$400 in a day were not uncommon. In 1849 about \$10 million worth of gold was mined. As competition increased, fewer and fewer claims were to yield such profits; the people who found practically nothing far outnumbered those who struck it rich. The source of the gold, the Mother Lode, a belt of gold-bearing quartz, ran in a wide swath stretching 160 km (100mi) through the mountains of the Sierra Nevada range. Its northern boundary was La Porte on the Feather River. In the south the lode extended to Mariposa. Placer gold, consisting of nuggets and gold particles, was found in streams and rivers in the foothills of the Sierras. In 1848 placer gold was plentiful. The miners could pick it up or scratch it out of ravines, dry streambeds, and gulches. By the end of the year, however, dry digging gave way to wet digging, or panning. Miners put gold-bearing dirt or gravel, which they called pay dirt, into a shallow washing pan. They then held it underwater for a few minutes. The current would wash away the dirt and gravel, leaving the heavier gold on the bottom of the pan. By the end of 1849 there were so many miners that individual operations were replaced by larger ventures. Miners formed groups to dry up riverbeds by diverting the waters with dams.

Even more rewarding was coyoteing. This method called for digging a shaft 6 to 13 m (20 to 40 ft) deep into the bedrock along the shore of a stream. Then tunnels were dug in all directions to get at the richest veins of pay dirt. The miners followed the frontier tradition of organizing themselves into small self-governing bodies for protection. Each camp held a meeting to draw up a code for its mining district. The typical code set forth the size of the gold claim that an individual could possess and the way it should be registered. Sheriffs were appointed to administer the codes. Justice was often harsh and swift. However, claim jumping, or taking over another person's claim, continued.

There were few social, class, or economic distinctions among the miners. A man who put in an honest day's work was quickly accepted. Most of the miners, however, were white Americans and looked on the gold as their national right. They

tried to keep the gold from others, such as Mexicans, Chinese, and Native Americans. In 1851 industrial mining, usually run by businesses with more advanced technology, began to replace the improvised group efforts of the Forty-Niners.

The profits from these operations went to organized companies, often financed in the East. Professional miners went to work in the mines of the large companies, following the mining business to different sites such as Alaska. Many of the Forty-Niners returned to the occupations they held before they went in search of gold. The gold rushes in the United States had a profound effect on the nation, as did the men who worked them. The Forty-Niners pioneered new trails through unknown regions and helped to open them up for settlement. They also added billions of dollars to the national wealth. These billions helped finance the growth of industry during the 19th century and helped make the United States an industrial nation.

Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2003.

**Document B**

*American Progress*, John Gast, 1872



## 2. Exercises

### Document A

#### Exercise 1: Answer to the following questions

1. What is the Gold Rush ?
2. Who was the first person to discover gold in 1848 ?
3. Who spread the word of Gold ? Why ?
4. What were the origins of the gold seekers ?
5. When did the mines of California started to run out of gold ? quote from the text
6. What were the methods used to find gold ?

#### Exercise 2: There were three routes to the goldfield. Retrace them on the map below



**Exercise 3: Analyze the effects of the Gold Rush on settlements, daily life, politics, and the physical environment.**

**Document B**

**Exercise 4:**

1. Describe the painting
2. Say what the painter wants to portray
3. Comment on its title. What does the word « frontier » evoke for you?

### 3. Grammar

#### Les adverbes et leurs places dans la phrase

En anglais, la place de l'adverbe dans la phrase varie selon le type d'adverbe employé : on distingue les adverbes de manière, de lieu, de temps et de fréquence.

#### Les adverbes de manière

(Par exemple *slowly, carefully, awfully, well*)

Les adverbes de manière sont généralement placés après le complément d'objet ou après le verbe s'il n'y a pas de complément.

*Exemples :*

He drove the car carefully.

He drove carefully.

Ils peuvent parfois être placés entre le sujet et le verbe. C'est surtout le cas lorsqu'il y a d'autres informations dans la phrase que l'on veut mettre en avant (plus importantes que l'adverbe).

*Exemples :*

He carefully drove his father's new car into the underground car park.

He carefully drove to school that winter day when something strange happened.

### Les adverbess de lieu

(Par exemple *here, there, behind, above*)

Les adverbess de lieu sont généralement placés derrière le complément d'objet ou derrière le verbe s'il n'y a pas de complément.

*Exemples :*

I didn't see him there.

He stayed behind.

### Les adverbess de temps

(Par exemple *now, then, yesterday*)

Les adverbess de temps sont généralement placés en fin de phrase.

*Exemple :*

I will tell you the story tomorrow.

Ils peuvent occasionnellement être placés en début de phrase (place moins fréquente qu'en français).

*Exemple :*

Tomorrow, I will tell you the story.

### Les adverbess de fréquence

(Par exemple *always, never, rarely, usually*)

Lorsque le verbe est conjugué à un temps simple (au *simple present* ou au *simple past* par exemple) ou que la phrase est à la forme interrogative, les adverbess de fréquence se placent entre le sujet et le verbe conjugué. Attention ! Si l'on emploie le verbe *be*, on place l'adverbe de fréquence juste après ce verbe.

Lorsque le verbe est conjugué à un temps composé (au *present progressive* ou au *present perfect simple*, par exemple), les adverbess de fréquence se placent juste après l'auxiliaire.

*Exemples :*

I often go swimming in the evenings.

He doesn't always play tennis.

We are usually here in summer.

I have never been abroad.

Do you always wake up at 7 o'clock?

## 4. Grammar exercises

### Exercise 1:

1. Relevez les adverbes dans les phrases ci-dessous
2. Dites où sont placés ces adverbes dans chacune de ces phrases
  - Tom says he voluntarily left his home country.
  - President Donald Trump hastily ended the DACA program.

### Exercise 2: Place the adverbs at the right place

1. Tom was looking for a better life. (simply)
2. He wanted to become a lawyer. (desperately)
3. He decided to move to Washington. (immediately)
4. He did that to help his family. (mostly)

### Exercise 3: Translate these sentences in English.

1. Il a quitté le pays récemment
2. A l'évidence, il aurait préféré rester dans son pays.
3. Les immigrants illégaux sont punis sévèrement.
4. Partir vivre aux Etats-Unis fut vraiment une décision importante.



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